



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, August 7, 2000

RSPA: 20-00
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**U.S. Department of Transportation Announces
Tentative Acceptance of Additional Safety Tests on Olympic Pipeline**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) today announced that it has tentatively accepted proposed actions by BP Amoco, owner of Olympic Pipe Line, to further ensure the safety of their pipeline system in Washington.

In addition to conducting hydrostatic testing of the 16-inch pipeline from Allen to Renton, Wash., the company plans to use the state-of-the-art transverse flux tool to identify seam-weld and other potential longitudinal defects on their entire 400-mile pipeline system. Olympic is nearing completion of internal inspection testing of the entire pipeline system with two other inspection devices and is performing remedial actions under OPS oversight.

"BP Amoco's use of this state-of-the-art technology will find hard-to-detect weaknesses in the pipeline. This test, along with other actions to improve the pipeline system, will provide for the protection of people and the natural environment located along the pipeline. The Department is encouraged by the direction that BP Amoco is taking to address the many safety issues we have already identified," said Kelley S. Coyner, Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation agency that has oversight over the Office of Pipeline Safety.

The pipeline integrity management plan that BP Amoco submitted to the Department for its review and approval outlines extensive testing to assess the current condition of the pipeline, and provide for ongoing protection. The plan includes a commitment by Olympic Pipe Line to

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conduct annual testing to better detect internal defects using in-line inspection devices, also referred to as “smart-pig” testing.

Last year, OPS ordered the Ferndale to Allen portion of the Olympic Pipe Line shut down. OPS also ordered repairs and testing on the pipeline. The pipeline has not re-opened for service since the failure that occurred on June 10, 1999, and which resulted in the deaths of three young people. Olympic continues to conduct all of the required testing and to make repairs. Additionally, OPS announced on June 2, 2000 that it was seeking the largest civil penalty – in excess of \$3 million – ever proposed against a pipeline operator in the history of the federal pipeline safety.

OPS stationed a full time inspector in Washington at the request of U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (Wash.) and conducted a joint inspection with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission of all pipelines in the state of Washington. In addition, OPS participated in a pipeline safety task force convened by Washington Governor Gary Locke.

Under the leadership of the Washington State congressional delegation, the U.S. Congress is currently considering a number of bills to improve the safety of oil and gas pipelines across the nation. Earlier this year Vice President Gore, joined by U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater, proposed the Pipeline Safety and Community Protection Act of 2000, which would strengthen citizens’ right to know about pipelines in their communities.

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